

Commissioner Leslie A. Newman



Commissioner Leslie A. Newman was appointed in January 2007 by Governor Phil Bredesen to lead the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, which performs a variety of regulatory functions and also houses the state fire marshal's office and consumer affairs.

A native of Dallas, Texas, Commissioner Newman has more than 25 years of experience in both public and private practice. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1976, her Juris Doctor degree in 1979 from the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri and a Masters of Law in Urban Law from the Washington University School of Law in 1980.

From 1990 to 1994, she was an attorney with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) of the University of Tennessee, Institute for Public Service, providing legal assistance to municipal governments across the State as part of an inter-disciplinary consulting team.

From 1994 to 2000, she served with the Metropolitan Nashville Department of Law as Associate Metropolitan Attorney. As the Associate Metropolitan Attorney, she advised the Office of the Mayor, the metropolitan council and various additional departments, boards, and commissions of Metro Government and was responsible for supervising the Metro Law Department's approximately 25-attorney staff.

Her private practice since 2000 has included a focus on land use, zoning, urban and municipal law, and governmental relations. From mid-2000 until early-2003, she chaired the Land Use and Zoning and the State and Local Government subgroups as a member of the Nashville law firm of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, PLLC. Prior to her appointment in January 2007, from 2003-2006 Ms. Newman was a partner in the Nashville law firm of Farmer & Luna, PLLC where she continued her state and local government regulatory practice representing governmental entities, neighborhood associations, individuals and businesses.

Numerous publications to which she has contributed include: *A Look at the Americans with Disabilities Act - A Local Government Official's Guide* (MTAS 1992); D. Mandelker & R. Montgomery, *Housing in America: Problems and Perspectives* (1979); *Solar Access Law: Protecting Access to Solar Energy Systems* (Team Four, Inc., Planning Design & Development Consultants 1979); *American Planning Association Newsletter*.

Ms. Newman served as President of the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association from 1998 to 1999. She is a member of the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Associations. In March 2004, Ms. Newman was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

(TACIR). In addition, she currently serves as President of the Friends of the Library for Nashville and also is a board member of Nashville State Community College Foundation.

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